

Appl. No.: 10/667,720
Amdt. Dated January 9, 2007
Reply to Office action of November 22, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 1 has been rejected as being anticipated by Volk (US 6,457,095 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 4 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 1 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Komura et al. (US 6,216,232 B1) in view of Volk under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In item 8 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-9 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Douglas et al. (US 6,609,193 B1) in view of Volk under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Applic. No.: 10/667,720
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Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a program-controlled unit including an instruction execution pipeline having a plurality of pipeline stages;

said program-controlled unit configured for executing pipeline instructions instructing said program-controlled unit to stop an individual one of said plurality of pipeline stages, more than one of said plurality of pipeline stages, or all of said plurality of pipeline stages without creating any conditions for which one pipeline stage, a plurality pipeline stages, or all pipeline stages are stopped; and

the pipeline instructions stipulating which particular one of said plurality of pipeline stages or which particular ones of said plurality of pipeline stages should be stopped.

Volk discloses a method and apparatus for exiting a dynamic random access memory from a low power state (NAP or PDN state). However, the pipelines operations in Volk refer to memory accesses, not pipeline stages for executing instructions in the sense of the invention of the instant application.

Also, Volk discloses "orderly shutdown," which does not require any condition or stipulation because it basically means that all the pipelined operations will be shutdown in sequence.

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Clearly, Volk does not show "a program-controlled unit including an instruction execution pipeline having a plurality of pipeline stages; said program-controlled unit configured for executing pipeline instructions instructing said program-controlled unit to stop an individual one of said plurality of pipeline stages, more than one of said plurality of pipeline stages, or all of said plurality of pipeline stages without creating any conditions for which one pipeline stage, a plurality pipeline stages, or all pipeline stages are stopped; and the pipeline instructions stipulating which particular one of said plurality of pipeline stages or which particular ones of said plurality of pipeline stages should be stopped," as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

The other cited references do not make up for the deficiencies of Volk.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

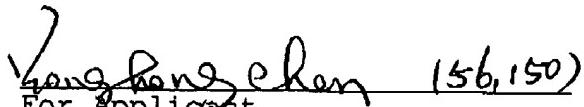
Applic. No.: 10/667,720
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In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

YC

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